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GROUP 1600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

BECKER *et al.*

Serial No. 09/523,237

Filed: March 10, 2000

For: KITS FOR AMPLIFYING TARGET
NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES USING
MODIFIED OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

Group Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: Shibuya, M.

Atty. Docket No. GP068-03.CN1

OFFICIAL

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RESPONSE

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on November 6, 2001, kindly consider the following remarks in connection with the above-captioned application.

Remarks

Claims 442-491 are presently pending in the subject application.

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner submits that claims 442-457, 468-471 and 485-488 are directed to inventions that are independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed (i.e., the invention of newly submitted claims 458-467, 472-484 and 489-491). Based on this conclusion, the Examiner has withdrawn claims 442-457, 468-471 and 485-488 from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's restriction requirement and the withdrawal of claims 442-457, 468-471 and 485-488 for the following reasons.